

# WIGAN ATHLETIC



Official Programme

20p

Friday, 21st December, 1979 — Kick-off 7.30 p.m.  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

**WIGAN ATHLETIC**  
- v -  
**CREWE  
ALEXANDRA**

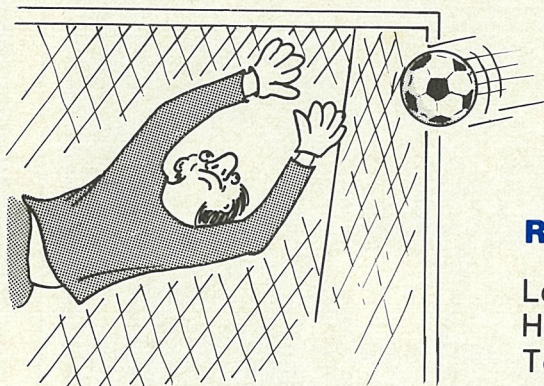


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# Club Directory

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REGISTERED OFFICE:  
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CHAIRMAN:  
Mr. A.O. Horrocks.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:  
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DIRECTORS:  
Messrs. J.H. Farrimond,  
A. Eckersley, G.D. Gorner,  
B. Connolly.

COMPANY SECRETARY:  
Mr. D. Welsby.

TEAM MANAGER:  
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:  
Mr. J.T. Sudworth.

HON. MEDICAL OFFICERS:  
Dr. G. Menon, Dr. S.K. Ahuja,  
and Dr. J. Coffey.

## Match Ball Donors

The Wigan Athletic Football Club wishes to thank all those who have donated match balls. Any individual or organisation wishing to join the scheme is asked to contact the Commercial Manager, Springfield Park, Wigan. (Telephone: Wigan 43067)

Our front page pic: Wigan Athletic's man in form, Jeff Wright, shows his midfield artistry. (Photo by courtesy of the Wigan Observer).

# Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



GOOD EVENING ALL. A warm welcome to Tony Waddington and his Crewe team. Tony is finding it tough going in his comeback to management, but there is no doubt in the end he will succeed in pulling through away from the bottom of the League. Tony's record in management

has been first class and it was the games loss when he had a couple of years on the outside.

### League Match

At this time this year we are in a similar position to last season, having to make a late run. I am a bit disappointed that we have been unable to fit in the Tranmere and Hartlepool games, but as long as we keep plugging away and picking up the points, we are capable of pulling back a few of the clubs above us.

### Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing each and every one of our supporters a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. On behalf of the lads, Kenny and myself we can assure you we will do everything in our power to make 1980 a very happy and successful time for Wigan Athletic. Enjoy tonight's game.

*Ian McNeill.*

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ALTHOUGH Crewe Alexandra is currently languishing at the foot of the Division Four League Table, it would be foolhardy to anticipate an easy victory for Wigan Athletic in tonight's game.

Such has been the Cheshire side's plight in recent times that many have forgotten the fact that "The Railwaymen" have enjoyed continuous membership of the Football League since 1921, and prior to that, in the late 1890's, the club was a member of Division Two. With such a pedigree, it is churlish, as the media is often wont to do, to make the Gresty Road club the butt for many thoughtless and inconsiderate remarks. One cannot overlook recent statistical records, but surely Crewe Alexandra, a club which has displayed true character and fighting spirit in the face of adverse circumstance, must be worthy of the respect of Soccer's devoted connoisseurs.

Twice in the 1960's, Crewe forced themselves out of the Fourth Division into the Third, only to make the return trip at the end of the following season. Indeed, having returned to the Fourth Division in 1979, try as a succession of directors and managers have done, Alexandra have found it an uphill struggle to produce a successful side. Off the field activities have become increasingly important, and the club, under the guidance of Mr. Ken Dove, have achieved some very laudable results from their fund-raising activities. With the acquisition of Mr. Tony Waddington,

in an attempt to introduce the flair and expertise more commonplace in the higher echelons of League Football, the current Crewe Alexandra Board of Directors gave notice to their loyal band of supporters of their intention to translate successful commercial activity off the field into imaginative management and team-building. Recent reports tend to suggest that, having reviewed his resources and made several changes, Mr. Waddington is poised to begin the revival of Crewe Alexandra fortunes. A side which struggled to create openings is now finding the path to goal that little easier to negotiate, and, given the necessary finishing touch, the New Year should be a great deal more rewarding for the Railwaymen.

Last year, in two closely fought games, we managed to take three points out of four, but only three goals were scored, and there is every indication that tonight's game will be another dour struggle between two sides anxious to create a platform from which they can launch their drive up the league table early in the New Year.

Welcome then to the Directors, staff, players and supporters of the Crewe Alexandra Football Club. We trust you will enjoy your visit to Springfield Park tonight, and we express the sincere wish that the New Year will bring your club ample reward for the years of hard unstinting effort put in by all those with the interest of the Gresty Road club at heart.



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## Match Ball Donation

We are pleased to acknowledge the donation of today's match ball by Farrimond Johnson, Decorators, 31a Acton Street, Wigan, Telephone No. Wigan 38249, specialists in office, industrial, residential, and ecclesiastical decorating. We thank the firm for the interest it has shown in our club and have no hesitation in recommending their services to our supporters.

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# Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

ON THE DAY Cup Fever hit Springfield Park, with cup tickets on sale early on Sunday morning for the F. A. Cup Tie with Northwich Victoria, bringing hordes of fans to the ground, my Reserve Team squad was returning to the grass roots of the game.

A game had been arranged against the Wigan Amateur Inter-League team at Little Lane, and, although there was not much grass evident at these particular "grass roots" (more like oceans of mud), a very entertaining game was enjoyed by all present.

The goals had no nets, the referee

soldiered on manfully without the assistance of linesmen, but, of course, all our players have encountered these things in the past and it did them no harm whatsoever to turn the clock back a little bit.

The league team provided good opposition, and, whilst we were obviously pleased to win, the important thing is that a good Sunday morning was had by all, followed by the customary ritual of a pint in a local social club for both teams who had provided a break from the routine and valuable service to our friends from the Wigan Amateur League.

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# Player Profile



Photo by courtesy of the Wigan Reporter.



## PETER HOUGHTON (Forward)

PETER HOUGHTON was born in Liverpool and received his Secondary Education at a school well-known for its footballing activities — John Hamilton High School.

While at school, Peter gained medals in a wide variety of sports, but it was at football he excelled, and selection for Liverpool Schools at Under-11 and Under-15 levels emphasised his talent. Indeed, he was a member of the Liverpool Schools' F. A. squad which won the English Schools' Trophy.

After leaving school, Peter joined the Ford Motor Company as an apprentice maintenance fitter and stayed with the firm until turning full-time professional in July 1978.

The Merseysider played for several local teams after leaving school in several Liverpool area competitions, before joining Prescott Town (then in the Mid-Cheshire League) and gaining a championship medal. Peter enjoyed his football so much that after playing on a Saturday he would turn out again in the Liverpool Sunday League for the very successful league and cup-winning side Canada F. C. A Sunday Cup Final at Anfield was an experience which he particularly enjoyed.

Prior to joining Prescott Town, Peter Houghton had played as a centre-back or midfield player, but while at Hope Street he was converted to a front-runner, from Prescott Town, Peter moved on to South Liverpool, from which Northern Premier League Club he was eventually signed by Wigan Athletic.

In his time at Wigan, Peter has endeared himself to the fans with his forceful running and several goals to remember. Although handicapped in the early part of last season by a series of injuries, he fought back to notch fourteen goals and emerge as Wigan's leading scorer for their first year in League Football. This year Peter has again been on target and it must only be a matter of time before he moves into a higher grade of soccer.

Married to Gill, a former Private Secretary with a nineteen months old son, Paul, and another happy event planned for May 1980, Peter is very much a family man.

To quote Peter's words in reply to the question as to what events in his career have been most memorable — "The best times have yet to come!!!"

### RESERVE RESULTS FOR YOUR RECORDS LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

#### **Saturday, 1st December, 1979**

Oldham Ath. Res. 6 — Wigan Ath. 0

#### **Friday, 7th December, 1979**

Wigan Athletic 1 — Oldham Ath. Res. 3

Wigan Scorer — K. Mayer.

#### **Saturday, 1st December, 1979**

Bury 'A' 2 — Wigan Ath. 'A' 4

Wigan Scorers — Crosbie, Glenn,  
Hendry, Wignall.

#### **Saturday, 8th December, 1979**

Wigan Ath 'A' 0 — Everton 'B' 1

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# ALL ARMS

Photo by courtesy of the Wigan Observer.



**ABOVE:**  
Peter Houghton and the Northampton Town goal-keeper join in an aerial ballet, but the keeper has the ball.

**TOP RIGHT:**  
Tommy Gore's legs leave the ground as he whips in a powerful shot, but Northampton Town survive.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:**  
Peter Houghton tangles with two Northampton Town defenders, but loses the ball for possession.

# Springfield Spotlight



# AND LEGS



Photo by courtesy of the Evening Post & Chronicle.



Photo by courtesy of the Evening Post & Chronicle.



NEW AND REBUILT

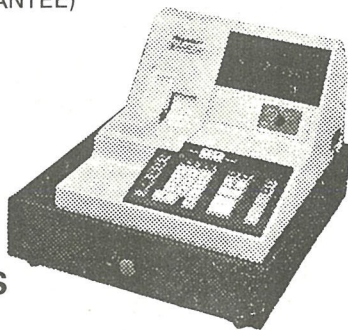
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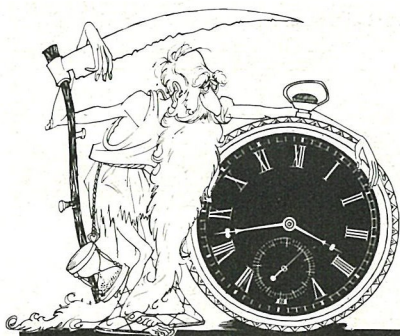


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# Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

UNTIL a few seasons ago it was quite commonplace to see Latics involved in more than 70 first team games a season.

By today's terms that seems ludicrous, but no doubt the directors of that time considered the winning of several trophies each season as ample justification of the heavy fixture list.

One such season was 1966-67, when Wigan Athletic, then members of the Cheshire County League, played a staggering 86 first team matches (a club record that, hopefully, will never be beaten). However, the reward for all the hard work was the winning of five trophies — The Northern Floodlight League and Knockout Cup, the Liverpool Non-League Cup, the Lancashire FA Floodlight Cup and the Case Trophy for the Cheshire League runners-up.

Wigan's entry into the world of floodlight competitions was new thanks to the installation of the Springfield Park lights, which were switched on at the start of the 1966-1967 season.

Manager Allan Brown left for Luton

Town and Alf Craig took over for a managerial stint that lasted four months, during which time most of the trophies were picked up.

The first trophy to arrive on the Springfield sideboard was the Northern Floodlight League Championship and Latics clinched this with a 2-1 win over Halifax Town at Springfield Park on December 21st, 1966.

The attendance of 2,933 hardly justified Wigan's entry into such competitions but nevertheless spectators went home happy after seeing Wigan win with goals from Derek Houghton and Dave Roberts with Wooler replying for the Shaymen.

The Wigan team was: Allen, D. Houghton, Wilkinson, Crompton, Craig, Roberts, Ryan, Llewellyn, Lyon, Hayes, Lewis. Sub. S. Houghton.

Halifax Town were represented by: Raynor, Clarke, Rollins, Mallinson, Pickering, Lee, Baker, Wooler, Balmer, Greaves, Holmes.

The referee was Mr. H. Vickers of Crewe.

## LATICS AWAY

At Peterborough United, Wednesday, 26th December, 1979 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m. Use A1 then A47 S.P. Peterborough into town centre. Follow signs Whittlesey and cross river bridge into London Road for Peterborough United Football Club.



# Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.  
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.  
† Player substituted.

<sup>2</sup> Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.  
\* In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	F	A	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 11	Stockport FLC1	1	2	6,004	R Ward	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Brownbill	Purdie	Urquhart
Aug 15	STOCKPORT FLC1	0	0	7,591	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie <sup>1</sup>	Dauids
Aug 18	Darlington	2	2	2,063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore <sup>1</sup>	Purdie	Brownbill
Aug 22	HUDDERSFIELD	1	2	6,927	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore <sup>1</sup>	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Moore	Purdie	N Ward
Aug 25	Stockport County	2	1	3,837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore <sup>1</sup>	Purdie	Urquhart
Sep 1	PORTSMOUTH	1	2	8,198	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore <sup>1</sup>	Purdie	Brownbill <sup>1</sup>
Sep 8	Bournemouth	2	1	4,390	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Hart	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart <sup>1</sup>
Sep 15	YORK CITY	2	5	5,990	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Dauids	Fretwell	Corrigan <sup>1</sup>	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart
Sep 19	HARTLEPOOL	2	1	4,877	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Dauids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright <sup>1</sup>	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Urquhart
Sep 22	Hereford United	1	2	3,891	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Purdie	Dauids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright <sup>1</sup>	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton
Sep 29	BRADFORD CITY	4	1	8,009	Shyne	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Dauids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED	0	3	6,541	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Dauids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Methven
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town	0	4	7,871	Brown	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Dauids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Methven
Oct 13	Doncaster Rovers	1	3	4,169	Brown	Machvor <sup>1</sup>	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart
Oct 20	LINCOLN CITY	2	1	5,454	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Dauids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Moore	Urquhart	A. Quinn
Oct 24	ROCHDALE	1	1	5,036	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Dauids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Buckley
Oct 27	Newport County	2	3	4,910	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven <sup>1</sup>	Dauids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Smart
Nov 3	DARLINGTON	2	0	5,001	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Dauids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Buckley
Nov 6	Rochdale	2	0	2,936	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Dauids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Brownbill
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE	4	1	4,618	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Methven	Dauids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Moore
Nov 24	Blackpool F.A.C.1	2	1	11,227	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven <sup>1</sup>	Dauids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Nov 28	BLACKPOOL FACTR	1	0	14,589	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Methven	Dauids	Corrigan <sup>1</sup>	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON	0	0	6,158	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Dauids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 8	Walsall	1	1	5,261	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Dauids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 15	Northwich FAC2															
Dec 21	CREWE															
Dec 26	Peterborough															
Dec 29	STOCKPORT															
Jan 1	PORT VALE															
Jan 5	Halifax Town															
Jan 12	Portsmouth															
Jan 19	BOURNEMOUTH															
Jan 26	ALDERSHOT															
Feb 2	York City															
Feb 9	HEREFORD UNITED															
Feb 16	Bradford City															
Feb 23	DONCASTER															
Feb 29	Lincoln City															
Mar 8	NEWPORT COUNTY															
Mar 14	Torquay United															
Mar 22	TRANMERE															
Mar 29	Scunthorpe United															
Apr 4	Crewe Alexandra															
Apr 5	PETERBOROUGH															
Apr 7	Port Vale															
Apr 12	HALIFAX TOWN															
Apr 19	Northampton Town															
Apr 26	WALSALL															
May 3	Aldershot															

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## FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 4 — TABLE AS AT 12th DECEMBER, 1979.

Home Goals													Away Goals				
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.		P	W	D	L	Pts.
22	10	0	1	36	11	5	2	4	17	16	32		22	10	0	1	36
22	6	5	0	18	9	5	4	2	18	13	31		22	6	5	0	18
22	7	2	2	30	9	6	2	3	19	15	30		22	7	2	2	30
22	7	3	1	24	6	6	1	4	17	18	30		22	7	3	1	24
22	8	2	1	26	13	5	1	5	20	14	29		22	8	2	1	26
22	9	2	0	29	9	1	6	4	14	19	28		22	9	2	0	29
21	7	2	2	21	15	3	4	3	10	9	26		21	7	2	2	21
21	8	1	2	22	8	2	3	5	10	14	24		21	8	1	2	22
21	5	4	1	20	8	3	2	6	10	18	22		21	5	4	1	20
22	6	1	4	18	14	3	3	5	6	11	22		22	6	1	4	18
22	7	3	4	14	13	2	6	3	8	14	20		22	7	3	4	14
20	5	2	4	21	18	3	2	4	13	17	20		20	5	2	4	21
21	5	1	4	15	12	3	3	5	9	16	20		21	5	1	4	15
22	3	4	4	10	17	4	2	5	11	18	20		22	3	4	4	10
22	5	3	3	22	17	2	2	7	19	31	19		22	5	3	3	22
22	5	3	3	12	9	2	2	7	9	19	19		22	5	3	3	12
22	7	2	2	17	10	0	3	8	8	26	19		22	7	2	2	17
21	6	2	2	18	12	1	2	8	12	20	18		21	6	2	2	18
22	5	5	1	19	11	0	2	9	7	29	17		22	5	5	1	19
22	4	5	2	20	13	1	1	9	7	30	16		22	4	5	2	20
22	4	1	6	18	11	1	3	7	9	24	14		22	4	1	6	18
21	3	3	4	10	13	0	3	8	8	26	12		21	3	3	4	10
22	3	3	5	11	15	0	1	10	4	28	10		22	3	3	5	11

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# Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



THE MANAGERIAL merry-go-round continues unabated at Port Vale where Alan Bloor has recently quit after a very short period in the hot seat. Bloor took over from Dennis Butler earlier this season. A man considered to be a likely candidate for the Port Vale vacancy was former England goalkeeper Gordon Banks, but, days after Bloor's departure, Gordon, who was coach at Vale Park, was relieved of his post.

Meanwhile, one of the first moves by Bob Stokoe, after taking over at Rochdale, was to bring Brian Hart and Paul Hallows off the transfer list.

Good news and bad for Crewe Alexandra. The club have made a record £58,117 profit but have recently lost the services of Warwick Rimmer who is off to take up a post as national coach of Sierra Leone.

Third Division Rotherham United have sold striker David Gwyther to Newport County — his second Welsh Club. But Newport's Tommy Tynan has turned down a move to Halifax Town. Both clubs had agreed on a £31,000 fee (a club record for the Shay side), but the player could not agree personal terms.

Having bought and bought, Portsmouth

could possibly be thinking about unloading some of their players. The Fratton Park Club have indicated their willingness to sell Colin Garwood for around £40,000 to Exeter City, but the player does not fancy the move.

Stockport County's fortunes have started looking up lately and new manager, Jimmy McGuigan, has not been slow to get out his cheque book. He has paid £25,000 to Scottish side Albion Rovers for nippy winger Tony Coyle and there could be more signings on the way.

Bradford City, currently recovering from a loss of form, are looking around for players to strengthen their squad as they step up their promotion bid.

At the other end of the table, Scunthorpe United could be planning a clear out. Their talented winger, Paul Oberg, who has been attracting the attentions of top clubs, is soon to have a cartilage operation, which will keep him out until well into the New Year.

Walsall's hopes of signing Birmingham City's Kevan Broadhurst have faded. After spending a trial period at Fellows Park, Broadhurst has decided to return to St. Andrew's and fight to regain his first team place.

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## Inside Information

by I. Spy

Commercial Manager, Jack Sudworth, recently tried to acquire a maxi-size sweater from A.C.W., the Leicester firm producing our sweaters. The sweater duly arrived accompanied by a poem from the firm's Oldham-born M.D. The poem is passed on for your appraisal.

*Wiv made this jersey just for thee  
Wiv yeard that tha's a big 'un;  
An' a sense of humour tha must 'ave  
If tha' can live i' Wigan.*

*O t'knitters went on overtime  
an t'cutters shears just flew  
An th'overlockers fair mucked in  
To mak this just for you.*

*We had t'machines extended  
An' t'yarn we bowt in bulk —  
Fer Superman we thowt it was,  
Or else, th'Incredible Hulk'.*

*Tha's 'aving too much black puddin' an' thripe  
'Ot Pot, cowheel and stew.  
It's Babbies Yeds an' black treacle tart  
Mak' thi measure 52!*

*Wi' a chest like thine it's plain to see  
In shorts tha' must look super  
Tha' should a ta'en up boxing lad  
Tha'd a' licked owd Henry Cooper.*

*Tha' doesn't need red flannel now  
Though we know it's cowl up the'er —  
Throw t'dog fat out; put this jersey on  
When tha's goin' for a walk on t'Pier.*

*We thrust tha' likes our little gift  
An' 'ope it gives thi pleasure  
We couldn't see th'owd Manager  
Bowt a jersey made to measure.*

*If ever t'team gus up fer t'cup  
An' 'thas seen on't telly too  
Mak sure tha's got this jersey on —  
It's from A.C.W.!*

ONCE AGAIN a very good evening and welcome to our last match before Christmas. Our Steward, Arthur Moss, his wife Molly, the staff and the committee at the Supporters club join me in wishing all members and supporters a very happy Christmas and with our sincere hopes that 1980 will be a really successful year for Wigan Athletic A.F.C. and for everyone connected with the club management, players and supporters alike.

We really have a great programme in store over the festive season, starting tomorrow:-

**Saturday, 22nd Dec. Chris Campbell**

**Sunday, 23rd Dec. Gary Francis**

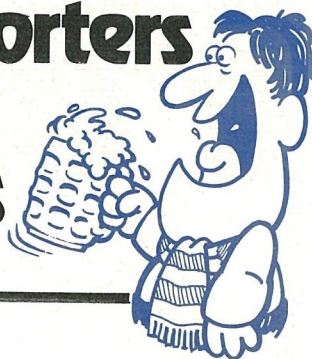
**Monday, Xmas Eve Arthur Ford**

**Wed., Boxing Day Alan Anderson**

In keeping with tradition the club is closed Christmas Day, and, as a matter of fact, this is the only day in the year when we do not open. I am sure there is no one who would begrudge the staff this break.

You may not have heard, but our quiz team won the Radio Manchester Shield on Monday night (10th December) when they defeated Leigh Cricket Club by 42 points to 38, in a contest that was "neck and neck" right through the ten games. For good measure, the lads also defeated the Radio 2 Brain of Sport team by 41-40 in a challenge match. Both games had a capacity audience on edge until the last questions in each session.

# Supporters Club News



Our thanks and congratulations to Mick Moss, Colin Beavers and Tom Bracken for a magnificent performance and for putting us on the quiz map.

Don't forget that the 'second leg' of the Federation Quiz is to be played at the club on Monday, 7th January, 1980 at 8.00p.m., when we entertain Rochdale A.F.C. Why not come along? I can guarantee you will be well entertained.

So, once again, all our very best seasonal wishes.

Sincerely,  
**Peter Woods.**



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# A last word from the chairman . . .

ON BEHALF of the Wigan Athletic Football Club, I am pleased to welcome the Chairman, Directors, Management, staff and supporters of the Crewe Alexandra Football Club to Springfield Park. We look forward to a keenly fought game between two sides anxious to get their holiday programme off to a good start.

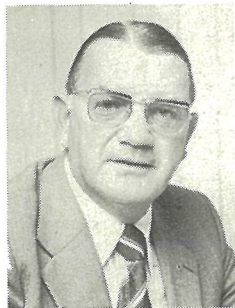
As we approach the half-way mark of this season's campaign it is pleasant to reflect that in spite of early season disappointments, we have again rallied and are working our way slowly and inexorably up the league table. What is even more satisfying is that the Wigan public have again backed our efforts with spectator support which is the envy of many a Third Division club and not only our colleagues in Football League Division Four. At the end of the day, good attendances, week in and week out, must strengthen the club's financial resource and give us all hope for a bright future. Thank you, loyal supporters!!

I would like to take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging the contribution made by Mr. McNeill, his training staff and players to the club's success. It is very easy to overlook the hard slog of soccer's day-to-day routine and to make judgements based on the evidence supplied by an individual game. The consistently positive and attractive football played by all our club's sides is worthy of our commendation and makes a game against a Wigan Athletic side an event not to be missed. It is not without significance that many of our opponents in the Fourth Division enjoy their best "gate" of the season, when Wigan Athletic are the visiting club.

In closing, may I, on behalf of everyone at the club, wish you all a very happy Christmas and an even happier and successful New Year.

Sincerely,

A. O. Horrocks.



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## Ball Donor

Tonight's Match Ball has been kindly donated by  
Farrimond Johnson (Decorators),  
31a Acton Street, Wigan. Tel. No. Wigan 38249

## Teams

**Wigan  
Athletic**  
Royal Blue  
& White Stripes

John Brown	1	Dave Felgate
Dave Fretwell	2	Neil Wilkinson
Joe Hinnigan	3	Danny Bowers
Tommy Gore	4	John McMahon
Colin Methven	5	Bob Scott
Neil Davids	6	Colin Prophett
Frank Corrigan	7	Dennis Nelson
Jeff Wright	8	Mick Guy
Peter Houghton	9	Peter Coyne
Tony Quinn	10	Geoff Hunter
George Urquhart	11	Ian Ashworth
Micky Moore	12	

**Crewe  
Alexandra**  
Red & White

## Officials

**Referee:**

**Mr. D.W. Civil**  
(Birmingham)

Commenced refereeing in 1955, and via Worcestershire Combination, Football Combination and Football League line, qualified for the full list in 1969. Has refereed the F.A. County Youth Cup Final in 1971/72, and was linesman in a European Cup Quarter Final (1972) also Scotland v Switzerland in 1975/76.

**Linesmen:**

**Red Flag**  
**Mr. S.W. Mason**  
(Nelson)

**Yellow Flag:**  
**Mr. N.L. Wilson**  
(Morecambe)

## Here next...

Sat., 29th Dec., 1979. K.O. 3 p.m.  
Wigan Athletic v Peterborough Utd.  
Football League Division Four

Tues., 1st Jan., 1980. K.O. 3 p.m.  
Wigan Athletic v Port Vale  
Football League Division Four